

A TRIBUTE TO TWO BRAVE TOTS,  
JUWAN BRUNSON, 3 YEARS OLD,  
RHAQUANN BRUNSON, 4 YEARS  
OLD

### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two very special tots, Juwan and Rhaquann Brunson, who had the presence of mind to call 911 to seek assistance from emergency personnel when their grandmother, Mrs. Otisteen Brunson, became dizzy and fell in her house on Park Avenue in Wilson, North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I learned that as soon as Mrs. Brunson fell, Rhaquann and Juwan immediately charged to their grandmother's rescue; Rhaquann's tiny fingers happened upon 911 on his grandmother's telephone while little Juwan provided comfort to his grandmother by rubbing her head until the emergency personnel arrived.

Mr. Speaker, this incident stresses the importance of parents, grandparents or older siblings taking the time to familiarize children at a very young age with the proper way to respond in emergency situations. It is critically important for children to know their address, home telephone number and how they should respond when confronted with a catastrophic situation such as illness, a fire or flood.

I applaud Juwan and Rhaquann Brunson for their bravery, but more importantly, I applaud their grandmother, Mrs. Otisteen Brunson, for taking the time to teach these tots how to dial 911.

Mr. Speaker, this special act performed by Mrs. Brunson's grandsons very well may have saved her life, as she had just recently been released from the hospital and she suffers with arthritis, congestive obstructive pulmonary disease and diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in paying tribute to two mighty brave tots, Juwan and Rhaquann Brunson. I thank God for the blessings of children.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF DAVID  
BUCKLEY

### HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, while Members of Congress are the ones with our names on the door, I doubt any of us would disagree with the view that we are only as good as the team we have working with us.

David Buckley has been one such stellar member of my team. As Minority Staff Director of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for the last two years, "Buck" or "Mud"—as he is affectionately known—has been an indispensable aide, a calm counselor, and one of the most pleasant people with whom I have ever worked and traveled.

Together, Buck and I have visited with the brave women and men of the intelligence community in some of the most challenging and austere parts of the world.

Together, Buck and I have discussed and analyzed some of the most difficult intelligence

and national security issues confronting our country, and we have worked hard to translate those efforts into policies that will hopefully keep the American people and the world safe in this era of terror.

David Buckley came to the Intelligence Committee with many years of impressive experience in congressional and criminal investigations, counterintelligence and law enforcement. Following 8 years of active duty service in the Air Force, he worked as Chief Investigator for the Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, chaired at the time by former Georgia Senator Sam Nunn—one of the most respected voices on national security the Congress has ever produced. He served in the Inspector General's office in the Department of Defense and later as the Assistant Director for Defense, National Security and International Affairs in the Government Accountability Office. Immediately prior to joining the Committee, Buck led a staff of 350 criminal investigators in the Treasury Department's Inspector General for Tax Administration's office. Finally, Buck is also a graduate of the Defense Intelligence Agency's clandestine human intelligence case officer course and the Federal Executive Institute.

Buck leaves Capitol Hill with the affection and respect of Members and staff on both sides of the aisle. He is genetically programmed to be bipartisan and courteous—traits that have served him extremely well and will continue to distinguish him in the workplace. I personally will miss our daily conversations, his unfailingly positive attitude and consummate professionalism.

I wish him and his wonderful family time for dinners at home, church activities, scout trips, and lots of love and laughter. As Buck begins this new chapter in his life, he remains a valued member of "Team Harman."

INTRODUCING "AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS GOVERNANCE MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2006"

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, charitable giving makes a real difference in the lives of people in need, and I have continually sought ways to encourage all Americans to give more. More than a government program or grant or stipend—nothing reflects better the spirit of man caring for his fellow man than the act of freely, benevolently giving out of his own pocket. I truly believe that by increasing charitable giving, we can make a real difference in the world. The Red Cross is the symbol that best represents charitable giving to most Americans. That is why I became involved in this effort to make the American Red Cross a more effective organization, capable of carrying out its mission of meeting critical disaster and emergency needs around the globe. We need to better enable the Red Cross to meet the needs of victims from natural disasters like Katrina, the tsunamis, and the California wildfires.

Yesterday, I introduced the "American National Red Cross Governance Modernization Act of 2006." This bill is in large part the result

of a report done by the Red Cross, entitled American Red Cross Governance for the 21st Century, and the hard work and dedication of Senator CHARLES GRASSLEY and his staff. Earlier this year the American Red Cross undertook its first significant review of internal governance since 1947, in an effort to modernize and strengthen its governance structure and practice. In February of this year, the Red Cross challenged its Governance Committee to conduct a comprehensive review and analysis of the Board of Governors, the role of management, the relationship with local chapters, and the transparency and accountability of the Red Cross. To conduct this review, the Committee brought together an independent panel of the country's preeminent governance experts and with this panel produced recommendations that were unanimously approved by the Board of Governors in October.

The most important aspects of effectively operating a large corporation are governance, oversight, and accountability. This carefully crafted legislation will modernize the Red Cross governance structure by decreasing the size of the Board of Governors and clarifying their role as being responsible for governance, not day-to-day operations. The bill subjects the Red Cross to enhanced oversight by creating an Office of the Ombudsman that reports annually to Congress, and ensuring that oversight is a primary responsibility of the Board. Through the legislation, the Comptroller General is authorized to review Red Cross involvement in any Federal program or activity, and the bill includes findings that Congress expects the Red Cross to maintain open communications with State regulators of charitable organizations and cooperate with them as necessary. These provisions will help the Red Cross achieve greater transparency and accountability.

Governance, oversight, and accountability are the hallmarks of an efficient corporation that meets the needs of its consumers. In the case of the Red Cross, those needs are great and, unfortunately, continue to grow. But the changes made by the American National Red Cross Governance Modernization Act of 2006 will better equip the Red Cross to achieve its mission worldwide. We need to pass this bill as soon as possible to enable the Red Cross to begin making these changes. This will allow the Red Cross to continue to be a major conduit for charitable givers and better utilize the generosity of all Americans.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I have introduced the American National Red Cross Governance Modernization Act and strongly encourage my colleagues to cosponsor and pass this important legislation.

IN HONOR OF MELANIE  
CHRISTOPHER

### HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, as this Congress comes to an end, we see the closing of an era for News Channel 12 in Jackson, Mississippi. After 25 years in the business, Melanie Christopher—the cheerful and informative co-anchor of WJTV—will be retiring at the end of this year. She will be focusing more time and attention on her husband and family, but we, her viewers, will miss her.

Melanie is one of Jackson's most respected and honored television journalists. This year, she was voted "Newsperson of the Year" by the Mississippi Associated Press, the first female journalist to earn this distinction. Her work has also won awards from the National Commission on Working Women, the Mississippi Association of Broadcasters, and the Associated Press. She has served as emcee of numerous fund raising events on WJTV over the years, including the Children's Miracle Network telecast to benefit Batson Hospital for Children in Jackson.

In recent years, Melanie has been the face of health and medical reporting for WJTV as she informed viewers about the latest treatments, drugs, and how to improve their health.

Melanie serves on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan YMCA and MORA, the Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency. She also works with the March of Dimes, the Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children. She is also a board member of Ballet Mississippi and hosts "The Learning Exchange" four times a year on Mississippi ETV.

Mr. Speaker, Melanie Christopher has long been a reliable, trustworthy source of news and information for Mississippians, and her dedication to the community has earned her well deserved honor. She has served in her role as journalist and kept the public trust in that institution. We will miss tuning in to see and hear her on WJTV, but I'm convinced she will continue to benefit her community and all of Mississippi for many years to come.

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HONORING MR. WILLIAM  
BENEDETTO

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. William Benedetto, who was recently the first Oregonian to be awarded the 2006 U.S. Maritime Literature Award for his book *Sailing Into the Abyss*.

Mr. Benedetto's service to this country began when he enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard after finishing high school in Maine in 1946. During his time with the Coast Guard, Mr. Benedetto served on every coast in the areas of search and rescue, port security and with the U.S. Merchant Marine. He was commended by the Coast Guard for performing rescue operations when Hurricane Betsy hit New Orleans in 1965.

Mr. Benedetto retired from the Coast Guard in 1974 after moving to Oregon and beginning his college career. He graduated from Portland State University in 1977 and from the University of Oregon Law School in 1980. After practicing law for 20 years, Mr. Benedetto retired and completed his longtime goal of writing a book. *Sailing Into the Abyss* was published in 2005 and was awarded the 2006 U.S. Maritime Literature Award in June of this year.

I believe I speak for the great State of Oregon when I say we are proud to call Mr. Benedetto a writer, a serviceman, and an honorable citizen of our State and country.

Congratulations Mr. Benedetto.

RECOGNIZING THEODORE JOSEPH  
FETTERLING FOR ACHIEVING  
THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Theodore Fetterling, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Theodore has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Theodore has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. It is with extreme pleasure that I commend the dedication Theodore has shown.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Theodore for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am proud to represent Theodore in the United States House of Representatives.

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IN HONOR OF OFFICER JOHN  
GREEN

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer John Green of the Santa Cruz Police Department. During his tenure, Officer Green served in the Patrol Section as a Patrol Officer and Field Training Officer as a Detective in the Investigation Section and with the Santa Cruz County Narcotics Enforcement Team. He is a man of honor and will be greatly missed.

Officer Green was born in Long Island, New York and grew up in Queens, New York to a family of two sisters and one brother. He enlisted in the Navy in 1975 and was stationed in Jamaica, New York. He was an Aviation Machinist Mate First Class. He later transferred to Moffett Field, California and remained there until his discharge in 1981.

Upon discharge, John worked as a Maintenance Technician for a large corporation in Santa Clara, California before beginning a career in law enforcement when on February 3, 1986, Officer Green was sworn in as a Police Patrol Officer. In 1984, John was hired as a Deputy Sheriff with the Alameda County Sheriff's Department where he worked in the detention facility for 2 years before being hired by the Santa Cruz Police Department in 1986.

John attended several U.S. Navy Aircraft Mechanics schools, studied at Mission College in Santa Clara, California and graduated from the Alameda County Sheriff's Department Police Academy.

John's dedication to the community first began with his service to the United States, but it did not stop there. His desire to become a police officer revolved around his desire to serve the community and its citizens through

law enforcement. He enjoys interacting and working with members of the community and strives to help keep our community safer. Community members describe him as professional, poised, kind, thorough, and having a positive attitude. One person even stated, "His compassion for people, kindness . . . open and friendly attitude puts everyone at ease." Officer Green is a man of integrity and respect.

John has been married for 13 years to his wife Sharon. They have three children; Brandon, 12; Melissa, 20 and Lori, 31. In John's spare time he likes to fish, travel and spend time with friends and family. His retirement plans include more fishing, traveling, and time with friends and family, plus working part time and engaging in volunteer work of some sort.

Mr. Speaker, for all of these reasons it is with great joy that I acknowledge Officer John Green of the Santa Cruz Police Department for 20 years of service to the community.

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HONORING JON BUTLER

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jon Butler, a constituent from Pennington, and recognize his great achievements. Mr. Butler has recently received the 2006 Hershey's STRIVE award, National Administrator of the Year from the National Council of Youth Sports.

Mr. Butler has been chosen for this award because he has been a guiding force in his community. He has worked closely with Pop Warner Little Scholars, the largest youth football, cheerleading, and dance program in the United States. Mr. Butler has worked to facilitate children's participation in group sports and activities. These activities engage children in a safe environment and help to teach essential skills and knowledge. Jon now has begun educating Capitol Hill about the value of Pop Warner Little Scholars.

Mr. Butler sets high standards for children and always encourages them to perform at their highest level. Mr. Butler has developed a Coaches Education Training Program to educate adults on the basic fundamentals of youth sports, including sportsmanship, coaching techniques, and respect for youth.

STRIVE, which stands for Sports Teach Respect, Initiative, Values, and Excellence, honors adult leaders who have a passion for helping children, and I am proud to recognize Mr. Jon Butler for receiving this award.

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TRIBUTE TO FIRST LIEUTENANT  
JOSHUA DEESE

**HON. MIKE MCINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true gentleman, wonderful father, and a leader in the Armed Forces, First Lieutenant Joshua Deese, who passed away while on patrol near Kirkuk, Iraq when his vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb on October